process that. Thirdly, we are on the verge of the formation of the National Drug Authority on the lines of the FDA of the U.S. It is going to be a professional body where there is going to be separate sections for safety, one section for licensing, one for blood products, one for vaccines, one for Indian systems and so on. So, it is going to be a separate entity. The building is likely to be completed in September this year. It is a building worth Rs. 12-15 crores. So, so much movement is there and we are training these Drug Inspectors and we are asking them to lift more samples. Unfortunately, only about 30000-40000 samples have been lifted every year. We need to lift a minimum of one hundred thousand samples. We have taken a lot of steps. Especially in CGHS, after a long time, now we have announced a new Formulary List of very high quality drugs and we are testing these drugs and samples. These high quality drugs are of some of the best companies. We are trying to improve the CGHS facilities also. Sir, taking the advantage of this opportunity, I would also like to inform the hon. Members who have been accessing some of the dispensaries in and around Delhi --- some of them say that they are not being provided sufficient medicines — we are making a provision that these medicines will be home-delivered to the hon. Members of Parliament. This is what we are going to do and I would like to inform them of this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Development of marketing centres

†*187. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to develop eight 'state of the art' marketing centres for marketing of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where these centres are likely to be set up and the details of the resources of their funding?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR):(a) to (c) Diversification of agriculture into high value horticulture crops and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

generation of employment in rural areas is a priority of Government. In keeping thereof the National Horticulture Mission has been recently launched in the country. The overall aim is not only to double horticulture production to a level of 300 million tonnes by 2011-12 but also to improve post harvest management. Such high level of production can only be sustained through construction of requisite infrastructure for post-harvest management and marketing. A National Conference of State Ministers held on 19th November, 2004 at Banglore, considered various options for liberalizing the agricultural marketing system for setting up of professionally managed markets in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture has accordingly taken the initiative and initially identified 8 important centres in the country wherein modern terminal markets for fruits, vegetables, flowers, aromatics, herbs, meat and poultry are planned to be established. The selected places are Bhopal, Kolkata, Nagpur, Mumbai, Nasik, Patna, Rai, and Chandigarh (Union Territory).

The terminal markets are evisaged to operate on a 'Hub-and-Spoke' format wherein the Terminal Market (the hub) would be linked to a number of collection centres (the spokes), conveniently located in key production centres to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce. The markets would provide the facility of electronic auction, grading, washing and packing lines, packaging, banking, processing and exports. The markets are envisaged as alternate competative markets which would function independently of the existing government regulated markets. The Terminal Market would be built, owned and operated by a Corporate/Private/ Co-operative entity. The enterprises could be a consortium of entrepreneur from agri-business, cold chain, logistics, warehousing, agri-infrastructure and related background.

The concept of setting of Terminal Markets for perishable commodities was discussed with the State Governments and interested private enterprises at a national conference of State Ministries held on 20-2-06 at New Delhi. Based on the discussions, a Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanshirp of Director General, National Institute of Agriculture Marketing, Jaipur with member from participating State Governments to develop a framework for the bidding process for selecting the enterprise for the implementation of terminal market projects and to work our implementation modalities. Central assistance to these projects is planned

by way of equity participation through the Venture Capital Scheme of the Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium.

Purchasing of Khadi and Kulhad by Railways

†*188. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Khadi and *Kulhad* purchased by Railways, so far, after the announcement of the budget, 2004;

(b) whether Railways propose to serve meals in *thalis* and *donas* made of 'Saal' leaves on the pattern of Khadi and *Kulhad*; and

(c) if so, by when and the steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) So far 416.42 lakh *Kulhads* over Indian Railways have been purchased for Rupees 2 Crores (approx.) after the announcement of Budget 2004. The quantum of 'Khadi'/ Handloom, in terms of its value of purchase by Railways from April 2004 upto Feb. 2006, is to the tune of approximately by Rs. 54 Crores.

(b) There is no proposal to serve meals in 'thalis and donas' made of 'Saal' leaves on Indian Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

Rejection of Indian Chyavanprash by Singapore

†*189. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Singapore has returned Indian Chyavanprash considering it as dangerous;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prior to this incident, America has also returned Indian Ayurvedic medicines with similar allegation;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.